



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Sixty-Six Indiana Counties in Total Now Designated Primary Natural Disaster Areas Includes Two Additional Counties Designated Today

Indianapolis, August 1, 2012 - Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated an additional 2 counties to the original 64 counties in Indiana as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by extreme drought. The 2 new counties are indicated with an asterisk:

Allen	Bartholomew	Blackford	Boone	Brown
Carroll	Cass	Clay	Clinton	Crawford
Daviess	DeKalb	Delaware	Dubois	Elkhart
Fountain	Fulton	Gibson	Grant	Greene
Hamilton	Hancock	Hendricks	Henry	Howard
Huntington	*Jackson	Johnson	Knox	Kosciusko
LaGrange	Lawrence	Madison	Marion	Marshall
Martin	Miami	Monroe	Montgomery	Morgan
Noble	Orange	Owen	Parke	Perry
Pike	Posey	Pulaski	Putnam	Rush
Shelby	Spencer	St. Joseph	Steuben	Sullivan
Tippecanoe	Tipton	Vanderburgh	Vermillion	Vigo
Wabash	*Warren	Warrick	Wells	White
Whitley				

"Each week, new counties are added through the U.S. Drought Monitor FAST TRACK Secretarial designation process," said Wickard. "These are extraordinary times for Indiana farmers and many are anxious to see the results of the USDA NASS August 2012 Crop Report next week."

One additional county also qualifies for natural disaster assistance because it is contiguous to a designated county. The new county is indicated with an asterisk.

Adams	Benton	Decatur	Fayette
Franklin	Harrison	Jasper	Jay
Jennings	LaPorte	Randolph	*Scott
Starke	Washington	Wayne	



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All counties listed above indicated with an asterisk were designated natural disaster areas on August 1, 2012, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Recent changes in the disaster program will provide faster and more flexible assistance to farmers devastated by natural disasters. There are three significant improvements related to Secretarial disaster designations: a final rule that simplifies the process for Secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters; a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that effectively lowers the current rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent; and a payment reduction on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands qualified for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, from 25 to 10 percent.

USDA encourages all farmers to contact their crop insurance companies and local FSA offices, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as feed purchased due to lost supplies. Additional resources to help farmers deal with drought may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

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